

Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Shrewsbury Conservation Commission
July 9, 2024; 5:15 PM; 450 Frank Lord Rd

Meeting called to order at 5:22 pm

Attendees: Weezie Duda, Carrie Clancy, Pam Darrow, Chris Clarke, Michelle Greene, Cynthia Thornton, Linda Shelvey, Connie Youngstrom (left at 6:10)

Absent: Peter Grace

Members of the Public: Lloyd Potter

Minutes:

Item	Topic	Discussion:
1	June 2024 Minutes	June 2024 meeting minutes approved with minor spelling corrections. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motion made by Pam ● Seconded by Michelle ● All others approved.
2	Financials	Michelle has not yet submitted her receipts for reimbursement. No changes. (\$2886 reserve \$981 remains in budget.)
3	Open Meeting Law	Weezie attended meeting with RRPC and Sarah Hamzas-Copeland. New laws effective July 1, 2024. Act 133. Applies to all public bodies. Change for non-advisory public body: Hybrid meeting info should be available with at least one person at a physical site. Must be recorded, recording must be saved for one month. We do not know if we are this type of organization. As of that meeting it was not decided if we are in this category or not, so until we hear further, we will not make these changes. Sarah Hamzas-Copeland would not answer, during that meeting, audience question about which type of org we are. Cynthia looked up the law and interprets that we are advisory. Michelle agrees with this interpretation. Not changed: we must provide 48 hours notice of agenda.
4	Invasives	Pam happy with recent volunteer response. Making huge progress. Patch of weeds on Lincoln Hill Rd by Fillmore's workshop might need attention. Nice donation from Stewart's Shops, gift certificates for volunteers.
5	Walks and Talks	7/20/24 at Michelle Greene's, encouraging wildlife on your property. Andrea Shortsleeves came 7/9 for prewalk, route. Plans for 2 hours of relaxed pace walking. 20 people minimum need to register and 8 people RSVP'd so far - needs 20! Weezie will continue spreading word. Need to make a decision for Andrea by 7/18. If events get cxld due to low participation, Andrea will still write up and share her observations.
6	Pollinator Project	No update other than the plants near Pierce's have started to look better. Needs more cleanup work in the fall. No further actions have been taken. Connie attended butterfly seminar. Bee The Change was there and

		<p>they will be asking solar panel companies to fund pollinator gardens under the panels - will eliminate a lot of mowing underneath. They are growing perennials - something to keep in mind. They told Connie they'd be willing to come for a walk and talk in the future.</p> <p>Tangent question: does Gary's Grove need any work? Michelle and Todd will drive by and look. Connie suggests that each person take a weedwhacker and clear tall weeds from tiny saplings. No date decided.</p> <p>Weezie and Chris have been seeing butterflies they have never seen before.</p>
7	Wildlife Crossings	Last winter's data all compiled. Weezie will contact RRPC to cxl mapping mtg and check to see if Jens can update biofinder.
8	Welcome Bags	Weezie reports that ads have been effective. Has 2 residents to deliver to. Reminder to fill out volunteer paperwork.
9	Act 59 & Act 154	<p>Weezie recapped and encouraged awareness. Michelle notices other areas of state more involved in related conversations than here in Rutland County. Their voices are heard the most. Cynthia reminds us to go to planning commission meetings when we can. Climate action planning group meeting, they want feedback but we don't seem to have a climate action committee in Shrewsbury.</p> <p>Act 59: resilience and biodiversity, land conservation.</p> <p>Act 154: environmental justice. All vermonters should have equal access to environmental benefits. Example: contradiction of saving land when there is a housing shortage.</p>
10	New Business	<p>Carrie would like approval to purchase a first aid kit, tick remover to keep at town office for walk and talks. Weezie make motion for up to \$50, seconded by Cynthia. All approved.</p> <p>Michelle wonders if we should look into EAB monitoring? Discussion: we have tried to address EAB to selectboard in the past, another org in the area had been monitoring EAB with the purple bags.</p> <p>Can we continue spreading awareness to town crew to help prevent spread of invasives. No action taken.</p> <p>Request for more SCC t-shirts to be made up. Weezie will look into it (colors, prices, quantities, etc.)</p>
	Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Date: August 13, 2024 ● Time: 5:15 PM ● Location: 450 Frank Lord Road
	Adjournment	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motion made by Chris ● Seconded by Pam ● All approved.

Minutes Prepared By:

- Carrie Clancy 7/9/2024

- Secretary, Shrewsbury Conservation Commission